

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Drug informant, fearing for life, goes public

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Miami News Reporter

A Haitian army colonel under investigation by a Miami grand jury was aided by other high-ranking Haitians in a smuggling ring that funneled cocaine into the Bahamas and Florida, a federal informant alleges.

Oswaldo Quintana Gonzales went public yesterday with new details of the alleged smuggling in which he says he participated from August 1986 to February 1987 — and about which he says he has testified before a Miami federal grand jury.

Quintana, 35, a former Miami seafood importer, said he had decided to make the details public in fear of his life — and because Miami federal prosecutors have not kept their promises to protect him.

Quintana said the smugglers operated from the ranch of Col. Jean-Claude Paul, commander of Haiti's capital city battalion, and Paul personally arranged a 100-kilogram shipment with him in December 1986.

Asked whether higher-ranking Haitians were involved, Quintana said "yes" but refused to give names. He said they included people on the government council that ruled the tiny island nation before the recent presidential election.

Quintana and his attorney, Ellis Rubin, said Quintana would disclose those names and other details if he gets to testify before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on terrorism and narcotics — which is investigating alleged drug smuggling by Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"There are other officials involved — higher than Jean-Claude Paul," Rubin said.

Rubin said he hopes the subcommittee can protect Quintana as a federal witness. Quintana said he has survived two attempts on his life in the past year and has stayed on the run with a \$250,000 murder contract on his head.

A spokesman for the Haitian Embassy in Washington declined comment on Quintana's statements. Attempts to reach Paul for comment were unsuccessful, but

he has denied such allegations before.

Quintana said his links to the smuggling began in August 1986 when he was introduced in Miami to a woman who said she was Paul's wife, Mirelle Delinois. She initially sought Quintana's help in moving cash from Haiti to the Bahamas, he said, but he later discovered the shipments contained cocaine.

Quintana said he made seven trips to Haiti to arrange flights between Paul's ranch and Abaco Island — sometimes staying at the estate of Antonio Paul, Jean-Claude's brother.

On his trips, Quintana said he saw cocaine stored in a motor home on Paul's ranch and 9,000 kilos of cocaine stored in the presidential palace in green military duffel bags.

Quintana said he became an informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in early 1987, after he was turned in by the owner of a plane he had hired for a drug flight. He then helped arrange contacts be-

tween Haitian officials and a DEA undercover agent, he said.

Miami federal court records show Mirelle Delinois was indicted on drug-trafficking charges last March. Released from jail on \$250,000 bond, she disappeared and the case is still pending.

Rubin said Quintana in late January asked to be placed in the federal Witness Protection Program. Federal prosecutors in Miami warned that he could not get in if he talked to the press about the case, and he waited four weeks without word, according to the attorney.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William Norris told the Associated Press that prosecutors were not in a position to promise protection to Quintana because the Witness Protection Program is supervised by the U.S. Marshals Service.

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INDEX

12B-1973 SUB T-629

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